READ ME FIRST

BASE SOFTWARE KIT

0008-14715

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PREFACE

This document is a supplement to the following documents in your Base Software Kit: Meet Your Dot: An Introduction to the DOT Computer, Business and Fun With BASIC: A Sampler of BASIC Programs For the DOT, MS-DOS Disk Operating System User's Guide, and MS-BASIC Language Manual. Its purpose is to correct certain omissions in these documents that could not be corrected prior to their publication.

Although this document, by its title, implies that you should read it before all the other documents in your Base Software Kit, you do not have to read it in its entirety. Rather you should note briefly, in the above manuals, the supplementary material contained on these pages. These notations will refer you to the appropriate information in this document, when reading any of the above manuals.

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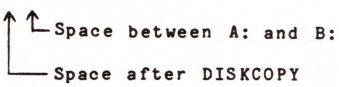
MEET YOUR DOT ERRATA SHEET #1

(Insert immediately after #3 of "A Few Document Conventions" on Page IX of the section entitled "Before You use Your Dot...")

4. The examples used in the text have been carefully checked. If you are seeing error messages ("Illegal Command," "File Not Found," etc.) on the DOT screen, check the spacing within the line containing the error and be sure you entered it exactly as shown.

   For example,

   A:DISKCOPY A: B: [RETN]

MEET YOUR DOT ERRATA SHEET #2

(Insert just before "Entering The Date And Time" on Page 2-2 of "Section 2, Starting Up The System.")

The system disk which comes with your DOT is write-protected, that is, you can only read the information on it. You cannot write information on it. You may copy it for back-ups.

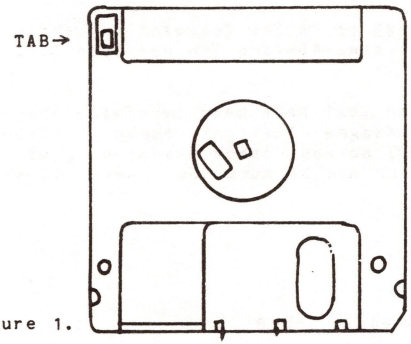


Figure 1.

You can write-protect a diskette by removing the tab in the upper left corner of the diskette. (See Figure 1.)

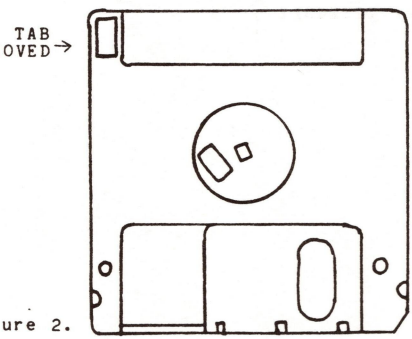


Figure 2.

You can write on a write-protected diskette by covering the square hole in the upper left corner with tape. (See Figures 2 and 3.)

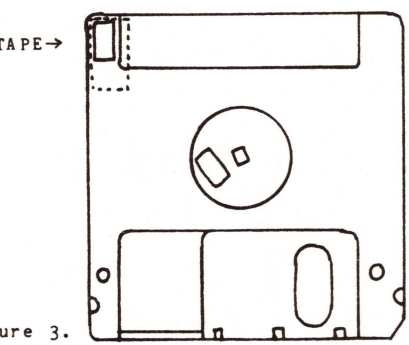


Figure 3.

MEET YOUR DOT ERRATA SHEET #3

(Insert at the bottom of Page 2-5 of "Section 2, Starting Up The System.")

The following message appears when accessing a drive which has been logically reassigned by the system:

WARNING: Single Drive System

This message occurs when using single drive systems or when Drive B (right most drive) is disabled. You should exercise caution when deleting files or using the format and copy utilities. Failure to follow directions may result in lost or corrupted files.

MEET YOUR DOT ERRATA SHEET #4

(Replacement for text just before "Where To Call For Help" on Page 6-3 of "Section 6, What If I Have a Problem?")

The following message and correction:

Problem	Correction
The time that the DOT displays after you enter the date is wrong and needs to be updated frequently, or the set-up mode screen contains unrecognizable characters. (Refer to Appendix B, "Set-up Mode Operation", for complete information.)	You need to replace the internal battery. Contact your customer service representative for assistance.

is to be deleted since the battery backup feature is not available on all systems.

(Insert just before "Exiting From Terminal Mode" on Page C-2 of "Appendix C, Using The DOT As a Terminal.")

WARNING: Use of the Delete key in Terminal Mode requires that the NUM LOCK key be enabled. Touching the Delete key, with the NUM LOCK key disabled (default state, i.e., nonnumeric keypad operation enabled) terminates Terminal Mode operation and returns the start-up menu to the screen.

MEET YOUR DOT ERRATA SHEET #6

(Insert just before "Leaving The Set-up Mode" on Page B-8 of "Appendix B, Set-up Mode Operation.")

CAUTION: While running applications, care should be exercised when using the Set-up Mode. If your application uses video parameters other than normal video or reverse video (e.g., overscore, topscore, highlighting, etc.), those parameters could be lost when you exit Set-up Mode.

BUSINESS AND FUN WITH BASIC ERRATA SHEET

(Insert at the bottom of Page 4-1 of "Section 4, Sample BASIC Programs.")

NOTE: The following sample programs have been carefully checked. If you are seeing syntax errors on the DOT screen, check the spacing within the line containing the error and be sure you entered it exactly as shown.

MS-DOS DISK OPERATING SYSTEM USER'S GUIDE ERRATA SHEET

(Insert at the bottom of Page 1-5 of "Chapter 1, Introduction.")

NOTE: Of the preceding software, the following is not provided with the MS-DOS operating system:

CREF.EXE

LIB.EXE

LINK.EXE

MASM.EXE

The above software is available when you order the DOT MS-DOS Macro Assembler and Utilities software kit (SOF313).

(Replacement for text just before Section "6.1 Initialization" on Page 6-1 of "Chapter 6, Microsoft BASIC With The MS-DOS Operating System" in "Part I: MS-BASIC User's Manual.")

The text:

To run BASIC, bring up MS-DOS and type the following:

```
A>BASIC86 <carriage return>
```

The system will reply:

```
xxxx Bytes Free
Microsoft BASIC Version 5.x
[MS-DOS Version]
Copyright 1977-1981 (C) by Microsoft, Inc.
Created:  dd-mmm-yy
Ok
```

should read:

To run BASIC, bring up MS-DOS and type the following:

```
A:mbasic [RETN]
```

The system will reply:

```
BASIC-86 Rev. 5.21
[86-DOS Version]
Copyright 1977-1981 (C) by Microsoft
Created:  12-Feb-82
xxxxx Bytes free
Ok
```

MEET YOUR DOT ADDENDUM #1

(Insert just before "The Printer" on Page 1-6 of "Section 1, Getting Familiar With The DOT.")

The following table illustrates the differences between the IBM and the DOT keyboards:

FUNCTION	IBM KEY	DOT KEY
Print Screen	SHIFT PRT SC*	SHIFT PRT SCRN
Num Lock	NUM LOCK	NUM LOCK
Stop Scroll	CTRL NUM LOCK	SCROL LOCK
Break	CTRL SCROLL LOCK	CTRL SCROL LOCK
Backspace	←	BACK SPACE
Tab	⇄	TAB
Shift	↑	SHIFT
Home	7*	5*
Page Up	9*	9*
Page Down	3*	3*
Cursor Right	6*	6*
Cursor Left	4*	4*
Cursor Up	8*	8*
Cursor Down	2*	2*
Delete	DEL	DEL or . *
Insert	0 INS	0 INS
END	1*	1*
+	+	+
-	-	-

*Numeric keypad in default state.

FUNCTION	IBM KEY	DOT KEY
Key Click Toggle	(none)	SHIFT ESC
Enter	(none)	ENTER*
Line Feed	(none)	PAPER LF
Printer Line Feed	(none)	SHIFT PAPER LF
Printer Form Feed	(none)	ALT PAPER LF

*Numeric keypad in default state.

MEET YOUR DOT ADDENDUM #2

(Insert just before "Entering The Date and Time" on Page 2-2 of "Section 2, Starting up The System.")

NOTE: If you leave your diskette in the diskette drive, your operating system will automatically load itself following a power failure.

This feature is provided to facilitate communications software. As a general rule, however, whenever you turn your DOT ON or OFF, you should not leave any diskette(s) in the disk drive(s).

(Insert after "Appendix D, Running The Diagnostics.")

APPENDIX E

THE MODE COMMAND

The MODE command allows you, at the MS-DOS level (A: prompt is displayed), to change the screen display format, the system date and the system time, to redefine the parameters of the auxiliary ports and the line printer, and to invoke the high-resolution graphics option*.

(For a definition of terms used in this appendix, see "Appendix B, Set-up Mode Operation".)

CHANGING THE SCREEN FORMAT

You can change the screen display format with the MODE V(ideo) command:

```
MODE V:nxm
```

where:

n = the number of columns in the screen display format.

m = the number of rows in the screen display format.

Possible choices for nxm include:

n		m
40	X	25
80	X	25
132	X	25
40	X	16
80	X	16
132	X	16
320	X	200
640	X	200
320	X	254*
512	X	254*
640	X	254*
1024	X	254*

For example, when you enter (at the A: prompt)

```
A:MODE V:80X16[RETN]
```

you set the display format to 80 columns by 16 rows.

*Available only with high-resolution special graphics option.

CHANGING THE SYSTEM DATE

You can change the system date with the MODE D(ate) command:

```
MODE D:MM/DD/YYYY
      or
MODE D:MM-DD-YYYY
```

where:

MM = a one- or two-digit number for the month.

DD = a one- or two-digit number for the day of the month.

YYYY = a four-digit number for the year.

For example, when you enter (at the A: prompt)

```
A:MODE D:3/25/1983 [RETN]
```

you set the system date to March 25, 1983.

The system clock sets the date when the system is powered ON. It should be changed only when a problem exists with the battery back-up to the clock. Then the date must be reset after repair. Once set, however, the date should remain correct, even when the system is powered OFF.

CHANGING THE SYSTEM TIME

You can change the system time with the MODE T(ime) command:

```
MODE T:HH:MM
```

where:

HH = a one- or two-digit number for the hour. (The clock is set on a 0-23 hour timetable.)

MM = a one- or two-digit number for the minute (0-59).

For example, when you enter (at the A: prompt)

```
A:MODE T:14:22 [RETN]
```

you set the system time to 2:22 PM.

The system clock sets the time when the system is powered ON. Since different time zones exist, you may have to set the correct time. Once set, however, the time should remain correct, even when the system is powered OFF.

REDEFINING THE AUXILIARY PORT PARAMETERS

You can change the auxiliary port parameters with the MODE COM command:

```
MODE COMn:Baud,Parity,Bits/char,Stopbits,B
```

where:

n = Port 1 or Port 2 (1 or 2).

Baud = a 110, 150, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800, or 9600 baud rate.

Parity = N (none), E (even), O (odd), or M (mark).

Bits/char = 7 or 8.

Stopbits = 1 or 2.

NOTE: Mark parity is simulated by setting no parity and 2 stopbits. Do not set the stopbits when using mark parity.

B = an optional parameter to set buffered receive mode on the selected port. If omitted, the selected port defaults to unbuffered mode.

NOTE: Buffered receive mode should be set at speeds above 1200 baud.

REDIRECTING THE SYSTEM PRINTER

You can redirect your DOT system printer and change printer parameters with the MODE L Command:

```
MODE Ln:x,y
```

where:

n = 1 (system printer is the integral printer).
    2 (system printer is the optional printer).

x = number of characters per line.

y = number of lines per inch.

Possible choices for x,y include:

Integral		Parallel	
X	Y	X	Y
80	6	80	6
80	3	80	8
132	6	132	6
132	3	132	8

PRINTER MESSAGES

Messages	Explanation
Printer Not Redirected	Your DOT displays this message when printer parameters are changed on the selected printer.
Printer Redirected To Parallel	Your DOT displays this messsage when the parallel printer becomes the system printer.
Printer Redirected To Integral	Your DOT displays this message when the integral printer becomes the system printer.

SET INTERLACE

You can invoke the high-resolution graphics option with the MODE I(nterlace) command:

```
MODE I:XXXX
```

where:

```
XXXX = 2000 (IBM compatible graphics)
         or
       4000 (high-resolution graphics)
```

NOTE: For use on systems with the high-resolution graphics option.

DEFAULTS

Each of the previous uses of the MODE command has a default setting, accessed by entering the command without its parameters.

Default Screen Format

The default screen format is 80 columns by 25 rows. By entering (at the A: prompt)

```
A:MODE V [RETN]
```

you set the display format to 80 columns by 25 rows.

Default System Date

The default system date is January 1, 1980. By entering (at the A: prompt)

A:MODE D [RETN]

you set the system date to January 1, 1980.

Default System Time

The default system time is midnight. By entering (at the A: prompt)

A:MODE T [RETN]

you set the system clock to midnight.

Default Auxiliary Port Parameters

The default auxiliary port parameters are 1200 baud, no parity, 7 bits/char, 1 stopbit, and unbuffered receive mode. By entering (at the A: prompt)

A:MODE COMn:,,,, [RETN]

where:

n = Port 1 or Port 2 (1 or 2),

you set the auxiliary port parameters to 1200 baud, no parity, 7 bits/char, 1 stopbit and unbuffered receive mode.

Default System Printer

The default system printer is the integral printer with 80 characters per line, 6 lines per inch. By entering (at the A: prompt)

A:MODE L [RETN]

you set the system printer to be the integral printer with 80 characters per line, 6 lines per inch.

Default Set Interlace

The default setting for the MODE I command is the IBM compatible graphics. By entering (at the A: prompt)

A:MODE I [RETN]

you invoke the IBM compatible graphics.

MODE COMMAND ERROR MESSAGES

Message	Explanation
Unrecognized Parameter	The parameter specified is not a V, C, L, or I parameter. Your DOT could not interpret it.
Prematurely Terminated or Badly Formatted Command	The command specified lacked the expected number of paramters. Your DOT could not interpret it.
Printer Not Installed	The printer you chose as your system printer is not installed on your DOT. After a brief pause, the DOT displays a time-out message.
Printer Timeout Trying To Set Mode	Due to a communication problem (e.g., the cable is disconnected), the parallel printer cannot be set.
Bad Port Number In COM Parameter	The port number specified is incorrect, and your DOT could not interpret it. Port number must be either 1 or 2.
Bad Baud Rate In COM Parameter	The baud rate specified is incorrect, and your DOT could not interpret it. The baud rate must be one of the following choices: 110, 150, 300, 600, 1200, 2400, 4800, or 9600.
Bad Parity In COM Parameter	The parity specified is incorrect, and your DOT could not interpret it. Parity must be one of the following choices: N (none), E (even), O (odd), or M (mark).
Bad Databits In COM Parameter	The number of bits per character specified is incorrect, and your DOT could not interpret it. The number of bits per character must be either 7 or 8.
Bad Stopbits In COM Parameter	The number of stopbits specified is incorrect, and your DOT could not interpret it. The number of stopbits must be either 1 or 2.

Bad Parameter In Video Mode

The display mode parameter (columns or rows) specified is incorrect and your DOT could not interpret it. Display mode parameters must be one of the following choices:

Column		Row
40	X	25
80	X	25
132	X	25
40	X	16
80	X	16
132	X	16
320	X	200
640	X	200
320	X	254*
512	X	254*
640	X	254*
1024	X	254*

Bad Parameter In LPT Mode

The line printer parameter (characters per line or lines per inch) specified is incorrect, and your DOT could not interpret it. Line printer parameters must include one of the following choices:

Chars/Line	Lines/Inch
Integral	
80	6
80	3
132	6
132	3
Parallel	
80	6
80	8
132	6
132	8

*Available only with high-resolution special graphics option.

Bad Date In Set Date Mode	The date specified cannot be used to set the clock. The system date must be in the following format: MM/DD/YYYY or MM-DD-YYYY
Bad Time In Set Time Mode	The time specified cannot be used to set the clock. The system time must be in the following format: HH:MM